

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

STEVEN FOWLER,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	1:16CV1041
v.	)	1:99CR10-1
	)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

RECOMMENDATION AND ORDER  
OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Petitioner, a federal prisoner, submitted a Motion (Docket Entry 293) seeking relief pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b). In the Motion, Petitioner attacks his conviction or sentence rather than seeking to remedy a defect in the collateral review process or other non-merit aspect of a ruling on collateral review. The Motion for reconsideration therefore must be construed as a motion to vacate sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. See Gonzalez v. Crosby, 545 U.S. 524 (2005); United States v. McRae, 793 F.3d 392 (4th Cir. 2015); United States v. Winestock, 340 F.3d 200 (4th Cir. 2003). As such, Petitioner's pleading is defective because he failed to file his claims on the proper § 2255 forms. See Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings Rule 2(b).

There is no need to put Petitioner through the extra work of submitting his claims on the proper forms, however, because Court records reveal that Petitioner already challenged this conviction in a previous § 2255 action [1:05CV162]. Therefore, the present

pleading should be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction because of Petitioner's failure to obtain permission from the Fourth Circuit for a second or successive § 2255 action, as is required by 28 U.S.C. § 2255. See Winestock, 340 F.3d at 200.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk send Petitioner a copy of this Recommendation, instruction forms for filing § 2255 actions in this Court and Motions for Authorization in the court of appeals, and four copies of § 2255 forms (more copies will be sent on request). Petitioner should keep the original and two copies of the completed § 2255 forms which can be submitted in this Court if Petitioner obtains approval from the Fourth Circuit.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that Petitioner's "Rule 60(b)" motion be construed as an attempt by Petitioner to file a second or successive § 2255 action.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that this action be dismissed due to Petitioner's failure to obtain certification from the Fourth Circuit as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and Fourth Circuit Local Rule 22(d).

This, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe L. Webster", is written over a horizontal line.

Joe L. Webster  
United States Magistrate Judge